

KINGSBRIDGE AND SALCOMBE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952.

The Report is prepared in the form required by the Ministry of Health (Circular 23/52 of the 6th November, 1952).

SECTION I - Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of Officer.	Nature of Appointment.	Date of Appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
Dr.W.C.Smales.	Medical Officer of Health.	1st May, 1944.	M.R.C.S. (Eng). L.R.C.P. (Lond). D.P.H. (Dub).	Medical Officer of Health - Plympton R.D.C. Kingsbridge R.D.C. Kingsbridge U.D.C. Salcombe U.D.C. South Devon Water Board.
Dr.R.H. Dummett.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health.	1st October, 1944.	M.B. Ch.B.	
Mr. R.J.Nichols.	Sanitary Inspector.	1st April, 1951.	Cert. R.S.I.	Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector - Salcombe U.D.C.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health. Dr. W.C.Smales,
The Lodge, Yealmpton, Plymouth.
Telephone No:- Yealmpton 78.

Address and telephone number of the Deputy Medical Officer of Health. Dr. R.H.Dummett,
Holmleigh, Salcombe.
Telephone No:- Salcombe 12.

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected.		Number of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector.	
Foreign Ports.	383	4689	-	-	-
Coastwise.	375	3909	-	-	-
TOTAL.	758	8598	-	-	-

PASSENGER TRAFFIC

Number of passengers INWARDS - Nil.
Number of passengers OUTWARDS - Nil.

CARGO TRAFFIC. Principal IMPORTS - Nil.
Principal EXPORTS - Nil.

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive - Channel Islands, North coast of France (Cameret) and coastwise yachts.

Character of shipping - 36 yachts arrived from the Channel Islands and the North Coast of France. 375 coastwise yachts. It is estimated that about 300 persons landed from the yachts. 343 French Fishing vessels (Crabbers) came into port from Cameret. None from infected ports.

Nil.

- (1) (a) South Devon Water Board.
(b) - do -
- (2) Frequent analyses are made - results satisfactory.
- (3) Hydrants protected by chambers and covers. All obsolete ones are being replaced. Hosepipes sterilised by chloros solution.
- (4) Sanitary conditions satisfactory. Inspected by Customs Officer, Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. Tanks cleansed and sterilised at the beginning of the season. Water samples taken - satisfactory.

- (1) Weekly Records of Quarantinable Diseases issued by the Ministry of Health filed and available for reference. Copy of the list of seaports in which a confirmed or suspected case of a quarantinable disease has occurred is forwarded to the Customs Officer.
- (2) It is understood that any ships wishing to land passengers would wireless their agents who would inform the Customs Officer. No passenger vessel arrived at Salcombe during the period under review, and none arrived from infected ports.
- (3) The signal stations at Prawle and Start would receive or send messages, visual or radio.
- (4) The approved mooring station is The Range, situated outside the Bar between Jone's Wall and Queen's Head.
- (5) (a) The City Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.
(b) If a case of infectious disease is landed from a vessel, all persons on board are regarded as contacts, and are kept under surveillance throughout the incubation period during their stay in port. When contacts land, their names and addresses are taken and these particulars are forwarded to the Medical Officer of the district to which they are proceeding so that they may be kept under observation until the quarantine period has elapsed.
(c) When a case of infectious disease is removed from a ship, the quarters on board are disinfected by Formalin. Cleansing and disinfection of persons, clothing and other articles can be carried out in the City of Plymouth by arrangement with the Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION VII - Smallpox.

- (1) The Smallpox Hospital (Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard, Cornwall) in the Plymouth Clinical Area.
- (2) The Plymouth Ambulance Service, Greenbank, Plymouth.
Telephone No:- Plymouth 4101.
- (3) Dr. W.A.Lister, 7, The Crescent, Plymouth. Telephone No:- Plymouth 5701 and Devonport 40).
Dr. D.F.Johnstone, The Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, or in his absence, Dr. J.L.Flucker must be informed immediately and invited to come and see the case. Telephone No:- Plymouth 4311).
(Ministry of Health Panel of Practitioners designated to assist the Medical Officer of Health in the diagnosis of smallpox).
- (4) The Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9.

A Memorandum has been prepared enumerating the measures to be carried out in the event of the occurrence of Smallpox in the district. This has been circulated to all concerned and a copy has been sent to the Ministry of Health (15th July, 1952).

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

Plymouth, South Devon and East Cornwall General Hospital Group.
Special Treatment Centre.

South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.
Hours of attendance.

Males - Monday - 6 to 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday - 10 to 11.30 a.m.
Wednesday - 10.30 to 12 noon.
Thursday - 6 to 7.30 p.m.
Saturday - 6 to 7.30 p.m.

Copies of these arrangements issued to all concerned.

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious disease on ships.

TABLE D.

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships.	-	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

Nil.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

Nil.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

- (1) The Customs Officer makes the necessary enquiries and in one instance only was a small infestation found.
- (2) Specimens may be sent to the City Pathologist, South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth for examination. No rodents were sent for examination during the year.
- (3) and (4) Not applicable.
- Satisfactory rodent control is carried out in Salcombe by the Urban District Council.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	1
Species not known ...	Nil
Sent for examination..	Nil
Infected with plague..	Nil

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

No. of Deratting Certificates issued.					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
HCN	After fumigation with Other fumigant (state method)	After trapping.	After poisoning.	Total		
1						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The French Crabbers lie in the stream and do not come alongside. There are no approved wharfs in Salcombe.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections.	Notices served.		Result of serving Notices.
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations,
1934 and 1948.

The Kingsbridge and Salcombe Estuary receives the whole of the sewage from the townships of Kingsbridge and Salcombe in an untreated state, and consequently special measures are necessary in regard to shell-fish.

Shell-fish. Under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, the taking of Cockles, Winkles, Limpets or Mussels from any part of the Kingsbridge Estuary inside Salcombe Bar for the purpose of sale for human consumption is prohibited unless they are:-

- (i) Subjected to a satisfactory process of cleansing at an Establishment which is for the time being approved by the Minister of Health for the purpose; or
- (ii) Relaid in pure water for such period and in such places as may from time to time be approved for the purpose by the said Authority; or
- (iii) Subjected to a process of sterilisation by steam under pressure for at least six minutes in an apparatus which is for the time being approved by the said Authority.

NOTE: With reference to para (ii), this method of purification is not considered suitable under local conditions.

Oyster Layings in the Estuary.

In July, 1950, the Port Health Authority approved the proposal of the Whitstable Oyster Company to lay oysters in the bed of the Estuary. The Company gave a written undertaking that all oysters extracted from the Estuary would be forwarded direct to Whitstable for passing through their cleansing tanks before sale to the public. Samples taken from the layings before cleansing show evidence of pollution and they are, according to the Fishmongers Company standards, unsatisfactory. Samples taken by the Fishmongers Company Inspector after cleansing show the oysters to be 100% clean.

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens (applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens).

Not applicable.

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

There is a mortuary in Shadycombe Cemetery, Salcombe. Agents make their own arrangements for the interment of the dead. Where deaths have occurred from any of the five major diseases, cremation is advised. Dr. Elliott of the Ministry of Health visited the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Health Authority on the 23rd June, 1952.

W. C. Smales

18th February, 1953.

Medical Officer of Health.

